UM MICROCOSM

Vol. II Ann Arbor, Spring - 1956 No. 1

SOURCE MATERIALS IN THE FIELD OF THEATRE

By Albert E. Johnson

About four years ago upon completion of its microfilming project *British and Continental Rhetoric and Elocution*, the Speech Association of America appointed a Committee on Microfilming Source Materials in the Field of Theatre. The committee's purpose was to compile a list of important documents and books on drama and the theatre that are difficult, sometimes impossible, of access to the scholar.

The original committee, under the chairmanship of Professor George R. Kernodle, now of the University of Arkansas, spent a year or more compiling a list which it then sent to some thirty colleagues and librarians throughout the country for comment, additions, and deletions. With this information at hand, a subsequent committee revised the list, enlarging it to almost ninety titles, arranged it according to subject matter, and then set about the task of locating the volumes for microfilming.

The majority of the material — some 48,000 pages in all — is in French, German, and Italian; approximately one-quarter is in English. Although very few of the foreign titles are available in English, some use will be made of translated portions of books to be found in American theses and dissertations. University Microfilms plans to make the reels available to libraries by subscription at about $240.

Among the valuable works which will soon be easily accessible on microfilm might be mentioned Pier Maria Cecchini's *Discorsi intorno alle commedie . . ;* Du Fresnel's *Essai sur la perfection du jeu theatral . . ;* d'Hannetaire's *Observations sur l'art du comedien;* Francois and Claude Parfaict's *Histoire de l'ancien theatre Italien;* Iffland's *Theorie der Schauspielkunst;* Maudit-Larive's *Reflexions sur l'art du comedien,* Giulio Ferrario's *Storia e descrizione dei principali teatri, antichi e moderne;* and Adolphe Appia's *Die Musik und die Inscenierung.*

Of particular interest to students of the English-speaking theatre will be the complete

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

THE PUBLISHER'S OBLIGATION

By Donald Geddes

Publishing, whether on paper or film, in books or journals, is a serious business with inherent responsibilities. Librarians, probably better than anyone else, know what these responsibilities are, and how well they are assumed and discharged. As for University Microfilms, it is with this obligation in mind that its yearly volume of abstracts is prepared and issued.

Ideally, in whatsoever form it is issued, the author's product should be discoverable systematically by anyone, anywhere in the world of learning, who seeks information relating to its subject matter, whether the relation be direct, ancillary, or peripheral. When this is possible it may be said that the publishing responsibility has been assumed and discharged. It may also be said that when it has happened the accomplishment is in great part due to the library function, plus the never-ending activities of the Library of Congress, the H. W. Wilson Co., R. R. Bowker, *et al.*

What all of this means, not just to the author and the information-seeker, but also to the world, would be difficult to explain, so complicated and ramified is the process. But there is a way to illustrate it and to dramatize it in terms of what has happened when there was an absence of such procedure and mechanism as now obtains, and in which our own *Dissertation Abstracts* plays so important a part.

Let us go back, in time and place, to the middle of the 19th century and to a town in Moravia named Brunn. A Polytechnical Institute had just been established. Shortly thereafter an inevitable trans-disciplinary, extramural, scholarly society was formed. It was a typical learned association which met monthly, at which time one member would read a paper. This particular organization called itself the Brunn Society of Natural Science. Having been read, papers were subsequently incorporated — standard procedure — in a *Proceedings*. Now at this point the Society was in the publishing business, whether it knew it or not. But to the Society, publishing meant printing, a not-uncommon notion

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

Vol. II No. 1

MICROCOSM is a publication of University Microfilms, with central offices at 313 North First Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

MICROCOSM is intended to bring interesting news of microfilming in all of its phases to the attention of librarians and others who, in the opinion of the Publisher, will benefit by receiving it.

If you would like to receive MICROCOSM regularly, please send a postal card with your name and address to

MICROCOSM
University Microfilms
313 North First Street
Ann Arbor, Michigan

THEATRE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

microfilming of Gordon Craig's magnificent periodical *The Mask* and most, if not all, of *The New York Dramatic Mirror*, the most important American theatrical journal of the period 1879-1922.

Only the first volume of William Davenport Adams' *Dictionary of the Drama* was published (1904), covering the letters A-G. The microfilm will contain material from the projected second volume. Also, there will be microfilmed the manuscript dramatic diary of Laurence Hutton in eight volumes, an extant work, like the Adams', unknown save to a few theatre scholars.

Except for a few fugitive pieces, the drama criticism of Edward A. Dithmar, influential critic of the *New York Times*, is unavailable in printed form. The microfilm will contain 2100 pages of his work, an extraordinary panorama of the New York theatre from 1884 to 1901.

The committee which completed the project during the past two years was composed of William W. Melnitz, UCLA; George R. Kernodle, University of Arkansas; Frederick W. Haberman, University of Wisconsin; Hubert C. Heffner and Richard Moody, University of Indiana; and Robert Dierlam, Queens College. Others to whom the committee is indebted include Barnay Hewitt and Karl Wallace, University of Illinois; Henry Schnitzler, UCLA; William G. B. Carson, Washington University, St. Louis; Jonathan W. Curvin and Ronald E. Mitchell, University of Wisconsin.

Albert E. Johnson, a professor of speech at Texas College of Arts and Industries, is chairman of the Speech Association's Committee on Microfilming for the Theatre project. □

THE PUBLISHER'S OBLIGATION

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

even today, and the distribution of copies to members and, obviously, of a few more to libraries. In those days, and in that general area, there were no periodical indexes, no abstracting journals, no union catalogues, no general registration, in short nothing, apparently, of the invisible machinery so vital to today's organization of knowledge of the printed word.

Such a publisher shot a few publications into the air, and they fell to earth neither he nor anyone else, very shortly, knew where.

Brunn, of course, is the town made famous, eventually, by an Augustinian Abbot named Gregor Mendel, who, because of his "hobby interest" in plant hybridization, inevitably became one of the active participating members of the Society. In fact some five years after its establishment he, Father Gregor, himself read a paper. It was long, and required two meetings to deliver. And in time it was published — published, that is, as described above.

The good Father was laid to rest in 1884, and not unsung nor unpraised, for his non-conformist activities were then forgiven. The rest is history. But it is history that reflects gloriously, not just on Father Gregor, but also on those three librarians who saw to it that at least three copies of those *Proceedings* would be sitting on shelves, however dusty, waiting in their archival patience for someone, sometime, to discover what it was that its author had tried to tell his listeners back in 1866. At any rate, there they were, these three widely separated copies, when in 1900 they were found by a Hollander, a German and an Austrian. Librarians had done their duty, and genetics was born.

Almost immediately it was realized that what had been discovered was a kind of 'Rosetta Stone' of inheritance, for Mendel's careful calculations and computations had made it possible for him to make a thought-model of the kind of mechanism that would produce the effects he had observed, counted, and classified. That thought-model proved to be accurate. He had envisaged chromosomes and genes.

It was suggested above that the discoverability of information can be of significance to the world, as well as to individual authors and readers. Nowhere, previously, in the history of science, had there been a discovery of such material value, and not since, except in terms of Einstein.

Anyway, Mendel's law resulted in the birth of biology's biggest baby, and fastest growing one too. To be brief, the breeding of corn on the basis of the growing knowledge of genetics was one of the many activities that ensued. Begun in the first decade of the twentieth century, this research resulted in 1933 in the commercial production of hybrid corn seed, a seed that contained a vigor that resulted, by 1947, in increasing the corn yield in the United States by fifty percent without increasing acreage. And the value of that 'found' corn, in terms of that which man most likes to count, was approximately a billion dollars.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

RESEARCH AND TRAINING IN DOCUMENTATION AT WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

By Jesse Shera

Within recent years, one might almost say within recent months, librarians and others concerned with bibliographic activities have 'discovered' documentation with all the zeal and enthusiasm of converts to a new religion. Because the term and all its ramifications are as yet imperfectly understood, many assume that documentation is something wonderful, mysterious — and completely incomprehensible. And it seems to be this alleged incomprehensibility that constitutes the main source of the term's appeal.

Actually there is nothing really new, nor very esoteric, about the fundamental concept of documentation. Whereas librarianship is concerned with the universal task of channeling all kinds of graphic records to all users, for all purposes, and at all levels of intellectual competence, from the child to the most scholarly adult, documentation is that aspect of librarianship concerned with improving graphic communication within and among groups of specialists. Documentation is limited to that portion of librarianship which treats of the materials and needs of scholarship, and hence it is primarily concerned with the scholarly apparatus of bibliographies, indexes, abstracting services, microphotographic reproduction in all its forms, and the latest mechanical devices for the storage and retrieval of recorded information.

The need to examine more thoroughly the information requirements of a wide variety of library users in the physical and social sciences and in the humanities, and the importance of pursuing research in the various techniques, methods, and systems devised to meet these information needs, gave rise to the establishment in the School of Library Science at Western Reserve University of its new Center for Documentation and Communication Research. It is hoped that this Center will discover, through a continuing research program, how the organization and administration of library methods and procedures can best be improved to meet modern-day demands. The Center, which is under the direction of James W. Perry and Allen Kent, formerly of M. I. T., will attack its research problems in three major ways: (1) by entering into contracts with business, industry, and government for the study and solution of specific problems of individual organizations, devising appropriate library procedures for each; (2) by maintaining a continuing program of pure, or fundamental, research in the field of documentation, which will be pursued without reference to any specific situation or contractual agreement; (3) by applying the practical experience achieved through its contractual relationship, and the knowledge gained from its fundamental research to the enrichment of the instructional program of the School of Library Science, and thus make possible the training of librarians and documentalists fully equipped to meet the library needs of the future. This enrichment of the instructional program of the School will be manifest in an extended variety of course offerings, a strengthening of the research program of the School as a whole, an expansion of the laboratory and demonstration facilities of the School, and an increase in employment opportunities for students during the period of their formal training.

Because of the important role which microfilm and other photographic processes play in expanding the horizons of librarianship and documentation, those who are interested in microphotography should be especially interested in these new developments at Western Reserve University. Further, the establishment of this new research center at Western Reserve is particularly appropriate, as it was at this same university in the 1930's that the late Robert C. Binkley carried out his pioneering work in improving photographic aids to scholarship.

Professor Shera is Dean of the School of Library Science at Western Reserve. He is also editor of American Documentation.

ALA EXHIBITS STRUCTURE

Different is the word for the exhibits setting at the annual conference of the American Library Association at Miami Beach. Meeting the exigencies of the colorful resort city, Al Remley, ALA Exhibits Manager for the past nine years, will house 170 exhibits under canvas. Two tents will be erected at the north side of the Fontainebleau, where the general sessions will be held. Gay, vari-colored pennants and entrance decorations, as well as good lighting throughout, will combine to make the exhibit tents appealing.

We understand Remley has ordered clear skies for the week of June 17, and we are sure his tent' year as exhibits manager will be successful.

THE PUBLISHER'S OBLIGATION

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

This, in less than a hundred years, the practical result of the non-conformist activity engaged in by a benign priest who counted the color variations in the common garden pea.

For the publishing business the irony and the moral is that biology was well prepared to use this information long before 1900. Here were 34 lost years that would not have been lost if there had then existed the machinery we now have that supplements the functions of the initial distributor of the printed word.

What about the microfilmed word? An essential part of the machinery did not exist, and that is the reason for the abstracts. This was our responsibility, and we have assumed it and, to bring all this to a pertinent point, we are sure that our publication, "A Study of Mutable Pale Green Locus in Maize," a contribution to Gregor Mendel's contribution, will not be lost for a moment, let alone 34 years.

Based on the doctoral dissertation of Peter Andrew Peterson, Ph.D. University of Illinois, 1953. A Study of Mutable Pale Green Locus in Maize. Publication No. 5998. $1.00

DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS EXPANDS ITS SERVICES TO SCHOLARS

By Eugene Power

Another step towards centralization of bibliographical information concerning doctoral dissertations was taken recently when the Association of Research Libraries selected University Microfilms to publish an *Index to American Doctoral Dissertations.*

This new publication will contain the information formerly found in *Doctoral Dissertations Accepted by American Universities* published by the H. W. Wilson Co., and the index to *Dissertation Abstracts*. The *Index* will be issued as a separate number of *D. A.*, with which it will be combined. This combination will greatly increase the effectiveness of both publications.

The transfer of publishers has been a most amicable one, in which H. W. Wilson Co. has cooperated to the fullest extent, as has Arnold Trotier, the editor of *Dissertations Accepted.*

The *Index to American Doctoral Dissertations* will contain the same information as its predecessor, arranged in practically the same way for the convenience of those who have previous volumes in this series. The statistical tables will also be retained, with the same key department listings so that long-range comparative studies may be quickly made.

The format, however, will conform to that of *Dissertation Abstracts* and it will be printed by offset lithography rather than by letterpress in an effort to maintain the present price level in the face of an expanding index.

At the present time *Dissertation Abstracts* contains an index by subject in each issue and a yearly cumulative index by subject and author for more than half the dissertations accepted by institutions of higher learning in the United States and Canada.

A five-year cumulative index of authors is planned for 1957, and a cumulative index of authors whose abstracts appeared in *Microfilm Abstracts* (volumes I - XI) will appear this Spring through the cooperative efforts of University Microfilms and the Georgia chapter of the Special Libraries Association. This index will consist of approximately 40 pages, will sell for $2.00 per copy, and orders should be placed now with Miss Pauline Nelson, 2080 North Decatur Rd. N. E., Apt. 12, Atlanta 7, Ga.

The subscription price for *Dissertation Abstracts* alone (12 monthly issues) remains at $10.50 per volume in the U. S., $11.50 for foreign subscribers. A combined subscription to *Dissertation Abstracts* with the *Index to American Doctoral Dissertations* as the 13th issue is $16.00 for U. S. subscribers, $17.00 for foreign. The price of the *Index* alone, in hard covers, will be $8.00. Postage will be added for foreign subscribers.

So far more than 15,500 abstracts have been published by University Microfilms, and at present more than 70 institutions are participating in the publication of doctoral dissertations on microfilm. It is expected that over 5000 dissertations will be published on microfilm and abstracted this year. The addition of a complete index to all dissertations published in the United States and Canada will make this service of increased value to research libraries.

University Microfilms, 313 No. First St.
Ann Arbor Michigan